

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2005. Claims 14-18 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-13 were rejected. Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 9, and added Claims 20-23. Thus, Claims 1-13 and 20-23 are pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – CLAIMS 1-7 & 9-13 – § 102(b)

Claims 1-7 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohlson (3,425,314). Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 1, as amended, and the claims dependant thereon are allowable over Ohlson.

Applicant claims a locknut adapted for axial engagement of a threaded shaft that includes a first member adapted for rotation about a threaded shaft and including at least one deflection wall. Applicant further claims at least one second member that has inner threads and is disposed in a rotatable, coaxial relationship with the first member. The second member includes at least one deflecting element that is disposed in an engaging relationship with the deflecting wall of the first member.

Applicant has herein amended independent Claims 1 and 9 to recite that the deflecting element comprises an incline at a leading end and an abrupt shoulder at trailing end, and that the deflecting element has a portion with uniform thickness between the incline and the trailing. As an example and not by way of limitation, this feature is clearly illustrated in Figure 9. In Figure 9, a deflecting element 83 includes an incline 118 at a leading end and an abrupt

shoulder 116 at a trailing end of the element 83, with a portion therebetween having a uniform thickness. The features of the deflecting element, now recited in independent Claims 1 and 9, facilitate the varying resistances as shown in the graph of Figure 13.

As discussed in the specification with respect to a preferred embodiment shown in Figures 9-12, prior to the deflecting wall 45 engaging the incline 114 of the deflecting element 83, a low resistance is provided as indicated by region 94 in Figure 13. The incline 114 of the deflecting element 83 leads to a portion of greater thickness that is uniform until it reaches the abrupt shoulder 116. This facilitates the increasing resistances shown in Figure 13 as regions 96, 98 and 101.

Ohlson discloses a member 3 with ratcheted tooth portions 11. Because the tooth portions 11 are ratcheted, such tooth portions 11 consist of planar outer surfaces (col. 2:28-29) which extend linearly from a thin portion to a thick portion, terminating at the thick portion and then repeating itself. Ohlson does not provide a deflecting element with an incline at a leading end that proceeds to a portion with uniform thickness followed by an abrupt shoulder.

Applicant's claimed invention enables a period of low resistance when the first member is rotated with respect to the second member. As shown in Figures 9 and 13, this is accomplished by "quadrant" 94 prior to the deflecting wall 45 engaging the incline 114 of the deflecting element 83. The incline 114 thus serves as a threshold for increasing resistance once engaged by the deflecting wall. Such a period of low resistance cannot be accomplished with Ohlson

because Ohlson does not provide an incline that works as a threshold. In Ohlson, the ratcheted tooth portions 11 are planar and, thus, devoid of any incline. Furthermore, Ohlson does not provide a deflecting element with a portion of uniform thickness between an incline and an abrupt shoulder. In Ohlson, the thicknesses of the tooth portions 11 ascend from low to high and then back to low again.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – CLAIM 8 – § 103

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohlson (3,425,314) in view of Rak (6,070,774).

Applicant respectfully submits that the inclusion of Rak nonetheless fails to teach or suggest of all the features recited in independent Claims 1 and 9 as amended. Rak was cited for showing a snap fit between coaxial members. Thus, Rak and its combination with Ohlson altogether fail to show a deflecting element with an incline and a portion of uniform thickness.

Applicant thus respectfully submits that the claims are allowable over the cited references.

ADDITIONAL CLAIMS – CLAIMS 20-24

Applicant has proposed new Claims 20-24. Claims 21-22 depend ultimately on Claim 1, and Claims 23-24 depend on independent Claim 9. These claims recite that the deflection wall has a first portion with a first uniform thickness and a second portion with a second uniform thickness that is greater than the first

uniform thickness. As an example and not by way of limitation, this feature is shown in a preferred embodiment illustrated in Figures 9-12. The deflecting wall 45 has a first portion with a first uniform thickness 105 and a second portion with a second uniform thickness 107 that is greater than the first uniform thickness 105. A ramp 110 is disposed between these two portions.

These features are not shown or suggested in Ohlson since the inner surface of the member 5 is ratcheted to conform to the outer surface of the tooth portions 11 of the member 3. Thus, the “cantilever sections 13” of Ohlson do not include any portions with a uniform thickness or a ramp disposed between such portions.

SUMMARY

Based on the above amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if it appears that a telephone conference would facilitate allowance of the application.

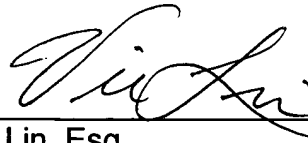
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 23, 2005

by Eric Hoover



Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Replacement Sheet (p. 3)
Annotated Sheet (p. 3) Showing Changes

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Figure 9. This sheet, which includes Figures 9-13, replaces the original sheet including Figures 9-13. In Figure 9, numeral "45" has been included to indicate the deflecting wall 45 .

Attachments: Replacement Sheet (p. 3)

Annotated Sheet (p. 3) Showing Changes

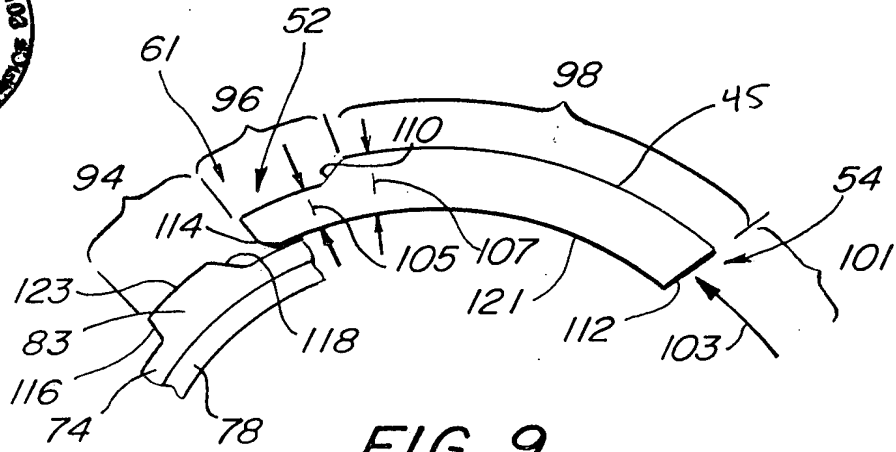


FIG. 9

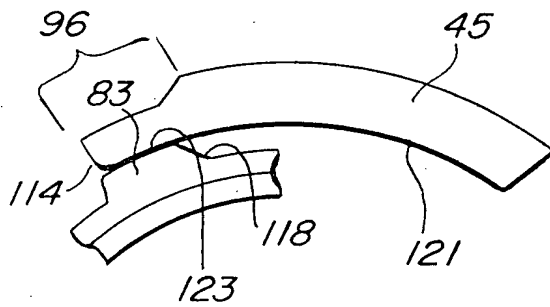


FIG. 10

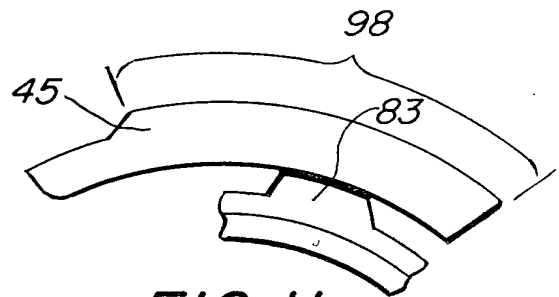


FIG. 11

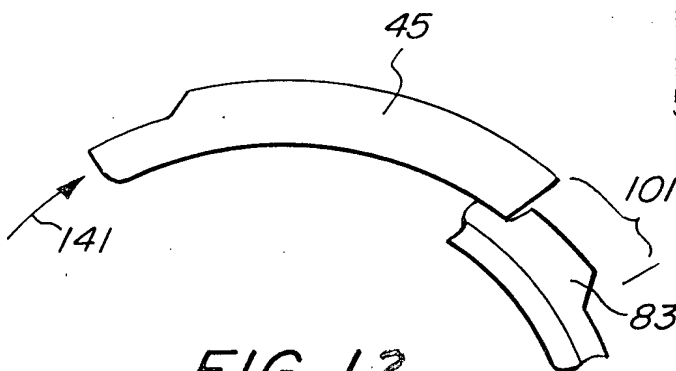


FIG. 12

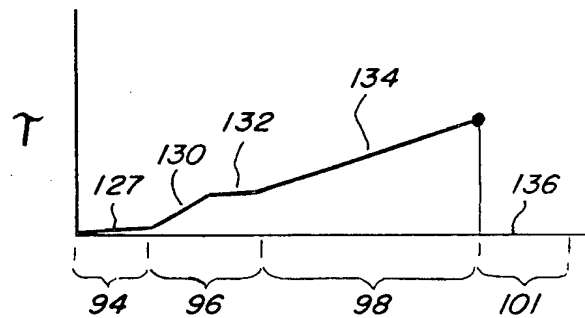


FIG. 13